

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, and 13 are pending in the present application, claims 2-4, 6-12, and 14-16 having been canceled herein. The office action and cited references have been considered. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, as being indefinite. The remaining claims have been amended to overcome this rejection. Withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11, and 13-15 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,542,534 to Dinter. Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,364,045 to Clayton. Claims 1-2 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,027,949 to Terwilliger. Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 3,208,585 to Hultgren. Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 3,136,415 to Sandstrom. Claims 4, 8, 12 and 16 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103 over the combination of Dinter and U.S. Patent No. 5,215,192 to Ram. These rejections are respectfully traversed for following reasons.

Before discussing the rejections on the merits, Applicants call the Examiner's attention to certain formal

deficiencies in the office action. First, the office action sets forth five rejections of claim 1 (as well as some of the other claims) in paragraph 4 over five different patents. Although the discussion makes some reference to reference numerals and column/line locations, there is no indication whatsoever as to which patent each reference is referring. It is left to Applicants to comb through the five references, attempting to discern on which portions of each reference the Examiner is relying. Applicants respectfully submit that these are not proper rejections. If the rejections are maintained, the Examiner is requested to fully explain where in each reference the claimed limitations are alleged to be found, so that Applicants can fully respond to the Examiner's allegations.

Second, paragraph 6 on page 4 indicates that the rejection is based on the combination of Dinter and "METAL PLATE." However, the body of the rejection on page 5 refers to Ram et al. Applicants have assumed that the reference to "METAL PLATE" is incorrect and that it should have been to Ram et al. If this is incorrect, clarification is requested.

Claim 1 recites a container for containing a roll formed by winding a long electrode sheet for electric double layer capacitors on a bobbin. The electrode sheet has a predetermined width perpendicular to a length thereof and is

formed by placing electrodes on both sides of a current collector. The roll formed by winding the long electrode sheet has two radially extending sides spaced apart by an amount equal to substantially the predetermined width. Each electrode is formed by binding carbonaceous powder with a binder resin. The container includes a container body having at least one end formed with an opening and made of stainless steel, a respective cover closing each respective opening of the container body and made of stainless steel, a sealing member sealing a gap between the container body and the cover, a stem fixed to either the container body or the cover so that the bobbin is mounted thereon, the stem being made of stainless steel and formed with a male thread, a bobbin fixing unit including a fastening member having a female thread hole and made of fluororesin, the bobbin fixing unit fastening the bobbin, thereby fixing the bobbin, and a holding unit including two presser plates, each of which is made of stainless steel and has a through hole. The holding unit is located at the two ends of the electrode sheet wound on the bobbin while the stem is inserted through the holes of the presser plates, respectively. The female thread hole of the fastening member is threadedly engaged with the male thread of the stem so that the presser plates are fastened thereby to be fixed. The holding unit holds the electrode sheet so as to

prevent the electrode sheet from being detached from the bobbin while pressing the two ends of the electrode sheet. This is not taught, disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record.

As a result of the amendment, the article previously claimed is now specified as an electrode sheet for electric double layer capacitors. A bobbin fixing unit comprises a male thread of a stem and a female friend of a fastening member. A holding unit comprises two presser plates. The container body, the cover, the stem, and the presser plates are each made of stainless steel. A fastening member is made of fluororesin.

An electrode sheet for electric double layer capacitors is wound on a bobbin and accommodated in a container. The electrode sheet is the shift in the container. When foreign matter gets mixed in with the electrode sheet, the electric characteristics of the electrode sheet may be adversely affected.

According to the claimed invention, the container body, the cover, the stem, and the presser plates are made of stainless steel. Accordingly, occurrence of rust can be prevented and pulverized rust can be prevented from scattering and adhering to the electrode sheet. Furthermore, where powder is sometimes produced when the fastening member is

engaged with the male thread of the stem. In this case, since the male thread is made of stainless steel, and the fastening member is made of fluororesin, fluororesin powder is produced from the fastening member, but not stainless powder.

fluororesin is an electrically bad conductor. Moreover, the fluororesin used in the claimed invention is the same type as polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), which is generally used as a binder binding carbon powder that is a principal material of the electrode sheet for electric double layer capacitors. Accordingly, even when fluororesin powder adheres to the electrode sheet, the characteristics of the electrode sheet would not be adversely affected.

Thus, the present claimed invention overcomes a defect caused by metal powder, which adheres to the electrode sheet during transport of the electrode sheet accommodated in a container. None of the prior art cited patents disclose suggest such a defect or a mechanism for overcoming such a defect.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over the prior art of record.

Claims 5 and 13 are believed to be patentable in and of themselves and as they depend from and include the

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recitations of claim 1, which is patentable for the reasons discussed above.

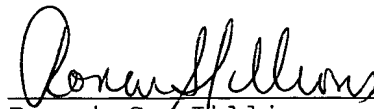
In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration a withdrawal of the outstanding rejections of record. Applicants submit that the application is a condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is most earnestly solicited.

The Examiner has any questions, is invited contact the undersigned at 202-628-5197.

Respectfully submitted,

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